



INVESTIGATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

All or some of the information you provide may become available to the public.

OMB # (1024-0236)
Exp. Date (11/30/2010)
Form No. (10-226)

Reporting Year: 2009	Park: Shenandoah NP	Select the type of permit this report addresses: Scientific Study	
Name of principal investigator or responsible official: Adam Regula		Office Phone: 330-243-1101	
Mailing address: 10062 Bimeler St. NE Bolivar, OH 44612 USA		Office FAX Office Email aregula@uwoyo.edu	
Additional investigators or key field assistants (first name, last name, office phone, office email) No co-investigators			
Project Title (maximum 300 characters): Experience and Place on the Appalachian Trail			
Park-assigned Study or Activity #: SHEN-00367	Park-assigned Permit #: SHEN-2009-SCI-0015	Permit Start Date: Jul 22, 2009	Permit Expiration Date: Apr 30, 2010
Scientific Study Starting Date: Jul 22, 2009		Estimated Scientific Study Ending Date: Apr 30, 2010	
For either a Scientific Study or a Science Education Activity, the status is: Continuing		For a Scientific Study that is completed, please check each of the following that applies: <input type="checkbox"/> A final report has been provided to the park or will be provided to the park within the next two years <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of field notes, data files, photos, or other study records, as agreed, have been provided to the park <input type="checkbox"/> All collected and retained specimens have been cataloged into the NPS catalog system and NPS has processed loan agreements as needed	
Activity Type: Research			
Subject/Discipline: Social Science			

Purpose of Scientific Study or Science Education Activity during the reporting year (maximum 4000 characters):

My research examines both the identity of the Appalachian Trail (AT) as a place created through direct individual experience and characterizations and representations of the trail presented in documents available in the absence of this experience. Those attempting to hike the entire trail at once (thru-hikers) and those hiking only a portion of the trail (section hikers) have ample time and experience to develop a rich and refined perception of the AT. However, this does not entail that those lacking this experience do not harbor their own perceptions of the trail, or that these perceptions are any less legitimate. The AT is widely known throughout the United States, and representations of the Trail are easily accessible in the form of popular books, documentaries, websites, guidebooks, and promotional literature. While I intend to use this research to uncover the senses of place that are commonly identified by thru-hikers and long distance section hikers as central to the identity of the AT as a unique place, I also seek to understand the representations of the trail as presented to an even broader segment of the population. Ultimately, the purpose of this research is to determine how such representations of the AT stand in relation to the identity of the trail created through direct individual experience and how this information can be used to create representations more consistent with user experience.

Findings and status of Scientific Study or accomplishments of Science Education Activity during the reporting year (maximum

4000 characters):

The field work portion of my research has been concluded. I conducted a total of 25 open ended interviews throughout the trail and 3 within Shenandoah National Park. Participants were typically engaged through casual interaction on the trail, often at overlooks, shelters, and water sources where communication and socialization were common. After rapport was established, I requested a formal interview, usually taking place at trail shelters and campsites. Interviews were based around pre-formulated yet open ended questions that evolved with my own experience and the continuous input of participants. Using the open-ended format and allowing questions to evolve with the research enabled participants to introduce and elaborate on topics which I failed to anticipate when originally formulating questions.

All interviews in Shenandoah have been transcribed. I am currently in the process of coding recurring themes in individual characterizations of the trail. As coding progresses, common themes are cataloged in a spreadsheet. These themes are then analyzed with attention given to number of occurrences and power of language

The same coding and cataloging procedure is being applied to textual representations of the trail.

For Scientific Studies (not Science Education Activities), were any specimens collected and removed from the park but not destroyed during analysis?

No

Funding specifically used in this park this reporting year that was provided by NPS (enter dollar amount):

\$0

Funding specifically used in this park this reporting year that was provided by all other sources (enter dollar amount):

\$0

List any other U.S. Government Agencies supporting this study or activity and the funding each provided this reporting year:

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.625 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the forms. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to Dr. John G. Dennis, Natural Resources (3127 MIB), National Park Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20240.